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Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 DODE-00 EB-08 NSAE-00 USIA-06
TRSE-00 SOE-02 DOE-15 CIAE-00 /042 W
----------084698 230248Z /75
R 221432Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 801
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 1667

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ESTC, SF
SUBJECT: CGS THERMODYNAMICS (LTD) PTY

REF: STATE 23153

1. EMBASSY HAS NOT SUCCEEDED IN DEVELOPING NEW INFORMATION ON CGS THERMODYNAMICS CASE. EMBOFF CALLED ON H.S. DEBEER, MANAGER OF AIR IMPORTS AND EXPORTS ON MARCH 14 AS REQUESTED. DEBEER REMEMBERED HANDLING THE IMPORTATION AND CLEARANCE OF EQUIPMENT LAST YEAR FOR CGS. HE STATED CODE OF CONDUCT OF FORWARDING AGENTS FEDERATION PREVENTED HIM FROM PROVIDING DETAILS OF TRANSACTIONS FOR ANY CLIENT. HOWEVER, DEBEER STATED HE COULD GIVE EMBASSY POSITIVE ASSURANCE THAT HIS FIRM HAD NOT BEEN INVOLVED IN RE-EXPORTING EQUIPMENT IN QUESTION NOR DID HE HAVE ANY KNOWLEDGE THAT SUCH RE-EXPORTATION HAD TAKEN PLACE. DE BEER ADDED THAT CGS HAD BEEN A CLIENT FOR SOME YEARS, AND HE HAD NEVER HAD ANY REASON TO QUESTION INTEGRITY OF ITS DIRECTORS.

2. CONTACTS WITH IMPERIAL COLD STORAGE LIKEWISE UNPRO-
DUCTIVE. ICS IS VERY LARGE FIRM IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION AND
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PROCESSING FIELD WITH ASSETS OF R60 MILLION AND NUMBER OF SUBSIDIARIES. MANAGING DIRECTOR, I.J. WENTZEL, INFORMED EMBOFF THAT AFTER CHECKING, HE WAS UNABLE TO LOCATE ANY INFORMATION ON DEALINGS BETWEEN ICS AND CGS THERMODYNAMICS. HE ALSO KNEW NOTHING OF R. MUELLER. WENTZEL STATED HE WOULD NEED FURTHER SPECIFICS FROM EMBASSY ON ALLEGED ICS INVOLVEMENT TO DETERMINE FOR SURE IF ANY ELEMENT OF ICS

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ORGANIZATION HAD BEEN IN CONTACT WITH EITHER OF THESE PARTIES. SINCE ONLY REFERENCE TO ICS IS BANK DOCUMENT FOR APPARENTLY R10 WHICH IS ILLEGIBLE EXCEPT FOR ICS NAME AND AMOUNT, EMBOFF DID NOT FEEL ABLE TO PURSUE MATTER.

3. EMBASSY HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO DEVELOP ANY INFORMATION ON MATTER RAISED IN PARA 12 REFTEL.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY HAS NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT TWO FIRMS CONTACTED PROVIDED ANY INCORRECT INFORMATION. WE FEEL OBLIGED TO NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT WIDE PUBLICITY GIVEN HERE TO RECENT TIGHTENING OF U.S. EXPORT CONTROLS ON PRODUCTS SOLD TO SOUTH AFRICA HAS CREATED SUSPICION AMONG LOCAL BUSINESSMEN RE USG MOTIVES IN EXPORT CONTROL INQUIRIES AND CONCERN THAT SOME NEW FORM OF ECONOMIC SANCTION AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA MAY BE IN THE WIND. IN THIS ATMOSPHERE, IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO GET COMPANIES TO VOLUNTEER INFORMATION ON ACTIVITIES OF OTHER FIRMS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXPORT LICENSES
Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 22 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Retention: 0
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SAS ID: 3238542
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
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